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(54) **COMPLIANT CLUTCH**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to clutches for selectively transmitting torque, and more particularly, to compliant centrifugal clutches. A compliant clutch (10) may have a plurality of engagement members (42 and 44), preferably at least three, and more preferably at least six. Each engagement member has an outer edge that is movable toward an interior surface of a receiving member (28), such as a drum. Flexible segments (70 and 72) may connect the engagement members to each other. In embodiment, the engagement members are arrayed around a hub, but detached from the hub to form an expandable engagement portion. Both aggressive and non-aggressive engagement members are provided. In another embodiment, the engagement members are affixed by flexible segments to the hub to form an extensible engagement portion. In yet another embodiment, a first and a second arm, each of which contains multiple engagement members connected by flexible segments, extend from the hub to provide non-aggressive torque transfer to the drum.

59 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets

